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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/816,780	04/02/2004	Timothy A.M. Chuter	12730/253	9975
48003	7590	07/18/2008	EXAMINER	
BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE/CHICAGO/COOK PO BOX 10395 CHICAGO, IL 60610			WOO, JULIAN W	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3773		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		07/18/2008	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/816,780	CHUTER, TIMOTHY A.M.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Julian W. Woo	3773	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 12,14-18 and 22-25 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 12,14-18 and 22-25 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 12, 2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification does not describe curvatures of the two curved portions of the limb to be in the range of about 30 to about 60 degrees. Figure 1 appears to disclose an angle "alpha" that is about 45 degrees (but even this measurement is uncertain, since exact dimensions are not necessarily able to be gleaned from the drawings), but the rest of the specification does not indicate the specific range as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 12, 14-18, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lauterjung (5,630,829). Lauterjung discloses, at least in figure 5 and in col. 5, lines 21-25 and col. 9, lines 1-15; a stent comprising at least one limb or a limb having a cross-sectional profile in which at least one segment is flat and straight (i.e., "rectangular"), where each limb is comprised of two curved portions having opposite directions of curvature, an intermediate straight, flat mid-portion connecting the two curved portions and a short straight segment at each end, where the intermediate straight flat mid-portion is angled with respect to the short, straight segments at each end in an expanded state; where the short, straight segments at each end of the limb are joined to a short, straight segment of an adjacent limb to form a point of attachment; where the short, straight segments of adjacent limbs meeting at the point of attachment are substantially parallel to one another in the expanded state (at 80), where the stent includes at least one strut or a multiplicity of stuts (e.g., the wire portions at 68, 70, and 76) attached at the points of attachment, where a multiplicity of identical limbs have been joined at the short, straight segments to the short segments of adjacent limbs to

form a cylindrical structure, where the stent comprises a multiplicity of wires formed in a sinusoid wave pattern, where the overall length of the stent is a multiple of the overall diameter of the cylindrical structure, where the curved portions have curvatures in the range of about 30 to 60 degrees in the expanded state.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lauterjung (5,630,829) in view of Marin et al. (5,397,355). Lauterjung discloses the invention substantially as claimed. Lauterjung discloses a stent with attached barbs (78). However, Lauterjung does not disclose that the end of each limb is provided with a barb. Marin et al. teach, at least in figure 2, a stent with a barb (18) at the end of each limb forming the stent. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

at the time the invention was made, in view of Marin et al., to include a barb at the end of each limb in Lauterjung's stent. Such a modification would improve the mechanical anchoring of the stent to the lumen of graft and/or blood vessel.

7. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lauterjung (5,630,829) in view of Marin et al. (5,397,355), and further in view of Baker et al. (6,221,102). Lauterjung in view of Marin et al., discloses the invention substantially as claimed, but does not disclose that the end of each limb has been provided with a series of serrations. Baker et al. teach, at least in figure 13 and in col. 12, lines 47-65, a stent (e.g., 131) including a barb (166) including serrations (170). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, in view of Baker et al., to modify the barbs on the stent of Lauterjung in view of Marin et al. to include a series of serrations. Such a modification would inhibit withdrawal of the barbs and thus allow the stent to be more firmly secured to a graft and/or blood vessel.

8. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lauterjung (5,630,829) in view of Gianturco (5,282,824). Lauterjung discloses the invention substantially as claimed, but does not disclose that the end of at least one limb includes a hole. Gianturco teach, at least figures 1 and 1A and in col. 2, lines 52-59; a stent with at least one limb including a hole (at 18) at its end. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, in view of Gianturco, to include a hole at the end of at least one limb in the stent of Lauterjung. Such a modification would allow the stitching of a sleeve to stent (by the

threading of suture through the holes), where the sleeve would prevent or reduce restenosis.

Response to Amendment

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 12, 14-18, and 22-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. With respect to remarks regarding the telephonic interview of May 1, 2008: The Examiner disagrees with Applicant's statement that the Examiner was "initially confused by his own application of the term 'curved portion' as used in the rejection based on the Bynon reference in the final Office action. On the contrary, during the phone call, the Examiner took a moment to review and recall the rejection and arguments applied in the final Office action, and as pointed out by the Applicant, the Examiner reiterated and clarified the definition of the "curved portion" as applied in the final Office action. The Examiner was not confused, and simply maintained the rejection with respect to the Bynon reference.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Simon et al. (5,354,308) teach a stent with limbs.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julian W. Woo whose telephone number is (571) 272-4707. The examiner can normally be reached Mon.-Fri., 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM Eastern Time, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jackie Ho can be reached on (571) 272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Julian W. Woo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3773

July 22, 2008